



PATENT  
*PPD  
BB  
5/15/01*

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Paul Metcalfe, Craig A. Homberg and  
Walter G. Lockard

Continued Prosecution  
Application of Serial No. : 09/228,845

Filed : January 12, 1999

Title : COUPLING ASSEMBLY HAVING  
ENHANCED AXIAL TENSION STRENGTH

Art Unit : 3627

"Express Mail" Mailing Label No. EK522728205US

Examiner : Eric K. Nicholson

Date of Deposit 9/17/2001

Notice of Allowance : January 19, 2001

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Batch No. : A93

By H. Duane Switzer

Attorney Docket No. : 427600800004

05/16/2001 SMORELAN 00000001 501432 09228845 PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

01 FC:102

320.00 CH  
Box CPA

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend this continued prosecution application as follows:

In the Claims:

*C* Please add claims 25-29 as follows:

*10* 25. (New) A tubular conduit having a conduit inner surface and opposite first

*YB*  
and second coupler end portions,

said first coupler end portion having first coupler inner and outer surfaces,